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INFO DRIPPING

27 June 1955

ALBANIA

I. Two shakeups in the Albanian regime have taken place in last three weeks, with two top level men being dropped on charges of incompetence, Vice-Premier Tuk Jakova and Minister of Education and Culture Bedri Spahiu.

II. Among possible reasons for changes could be a new orientation in Albanian policy toward Yugoslavia or a development in the long-reported rivalry between Premier Mehmet Shehu and Party First Secretary Enver Hoxha, or both.

III. Evidence connecting these men with Yugoslavia is old.

A. One of men dismissed (Spahiu) headed commission which tried and condemned Koci Xoxe--the Albanian Titoist--in May 1949 and later was important mouth-piece for anti-Tito propaganda.

B. Other ^{man} ~~men~~ ^{Jakova} reportedly went to Moscow in fall of 1942 to get Kremlin's orders concerning the removal of Xoxe and replaced Xoxe as ^{org} ~~as~~ party ~~on~~-secretary.

C. On the other hand both men first started to slip from favor in 1951 with no apparent connection to Yugoslavia, with one of them Jakova making a partial comeback.

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D. This suggests present dismissal part of long term personal difficulties of the men within the party.

IV. In regard to the Shehu-Hoxha rivalry, evidence connecting the men involved with either top leader is tenuous and mostly based on rumor.

A. The strong/evidence ^{est} connects one man now moving up (Spiro Koleka, who becomes a Vice-Premier in addition to Politburo slot) as a Hoxha supporter, thus suggesting these changes may be a move on the part of Hoxha to reinforce his position.

1. Recently, there appears to have been a slightly unusual effort to build

up Hoxha publicly contrasting with recent Albanian "collective leadership" practice.

2. A build-up of Hoxha would also fit into any Moscow desire to have

Albania improve its relations with Tito, since he is the less anti-Tito of the two men involved.

V. Italian Foreign Ministry claims the shifts were because the men relieved were anti-Tito and were opposed to Albanian-Yugoslav rapprochement, especially fearing a Balkan Federation in which Moscow placed Tito at the head.

A. Itali^as suggest time ripe for US actions such as raising the question

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of Albanian "neutrality"

B. This proposal shows Italian desire to create opportunity for more room

for Italian maneuvering in Balkans and suggests Rome is probably
exaggerating
suggesting the imminence and degree of any Yugoslav-Albanian moves.

C. Yugoslavs have shown little indication of making extraordinary moves

towards Albania and in fact seem more interested in what can be done with
Bulgaria.

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